



## REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

January 26, 2009

### Minutes

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

#### I. ROLL CALL

Present: Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer  
Excused: Blair, Clouette

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 Special meeting as presented in a second draft distributed at the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 regular meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

#### III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

##### 1. Potter Trust Property

Ms. Koehn asked for clarification of the required notice of the public hearing regarding action on this property. Staff will investigate.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, also questioned the legality of the public hearing and thinks that the property owner should sell and settle the taxes with the Town.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, questioned the accuracy of the information regarding the statute of limitation and the proper street number of the address.

##### 2. Fee Schedule for Rescue Services

Chief Dave Dagon presented an overview of the proposed fee schedule for rescue services noting that charges will be assessed to the property owner only if a claim is filed with their insurance company. The department will follow the same soft billing practice currently used for medical transport so as not to discourage 911 calls.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, expressed opposition to the fees noting that education, public safety and public works are the jobs of government.

Charles Dainton, Mansfield City Road, asked if the resulting revenues would be

for the department or become part of the general fund and stated he would like to see a provision to discourage overzealousness in an effort to create revenue.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, is against the Town charging taxpayers for services that they already pay for through their tax dollars.

Donald Richards, Mansfield Apartments, stated that if the fees are enacted any money collected should be offset by a decrease in taxes.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, is opposed to imposing fees on public safety but urged the Council to look at other areas of the budget that are not the legitimate job of government.

#### IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, applauded the work of the Public Works department in their efforts to keep the roads safe this winter. He also urged the Town Council to resolve to lower his taxes next year.

Sharry Goldman, Browns Road, described her efforts to assist with the fund raising for the completion of the skate park. Mike Taylor has done much of the work and has enlisted Ms. Goldman and Ken Rawn to help with procuring the funds to complete the project. Ms. Goldman has applied for a grant but asked the Council for guidance regarding corporate support and the issue of advertising within the park.

The Council agreed to discuss the issue as a future agenda item.

Seamus Keating, a member of the Undergraduate Student Government, expressed his concern that the proposed changes to the Special Police Ordinance might harm the relationship between the Town and students and might discourage students from calling the police. He asked for clarification regarding determining the responsible party.

Mr. Schaefer requested that the Mr. Keating write up his comments and submit them to the Town Clerk who will include them in the next packet.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, spoke in opposition to the proposed interlocal financial agreement with Columbia.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, reported that he spoke to the Communication Advisory Committee earlier this evening regarding the televising of Town meetings. He told the Committee he would make a public plea for more volunteers who would be willing to record additional meetings in Town.

Jason Ortiz, a member of University Student Government, expressed his concern that the proposed changes to the Special Police Ordinance would place an undue burden on the student/police relationship and might deter students from calling for help.

Donald Richards, Mansfield Apartments, asked if a call would be considered repeated if it were within the same calendar day or within a 24-hour period. He also questioned if a call to different apartments within the same building would be considered separate calls.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Report attached.

Town Manager Matt Hart requested an Executive Session following regular business in accordance with CGS§1-200.6.d regarding the sale of property. By consensus the Council agreed.

- The Town Manager will also schedule a workshop with the Downtown Partnership prior to a regular meeting.

Mr. Nesbitt requested adding the issue of the Region 19 Referendum regarding the track and other improvements be added to the agenda (Item 10a). Seconded by Mr. Schaefer the motion was agreed to.

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- VI. OLD BUSINESS  
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3. Potter Trust Property

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to postpone action on the Potter Trust Property until the Town Manager can verify whether the public hearing was properly noticed. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Fee Schedule for Rescue Services

Mr. Schafer moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to accept the proposed fee schedule for rescue services, which schedule shall be effective March 1, 2009.

Chief Dagon addressed questions raised earlier by the public noting that generated revenue would become part of the general fund; statistics regarding need for rescue services are not currently identified and that it would be unethical for rescue services to force assistance on unwilling citizens.

Council members questioned the process for billing insurance companies, asked for details on current collection rates, questioned whether the fee waiver ordinance could be changed to include these services, the number of calls that involve non-residents, the role of the Council in monitoring the policy, and whether or not this program would change the overall expenditures of the Fire Department.

Mr. Schaefer withdrew his motion. Mr. Nesbitt, who seconded the motion, was in agreement.

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to direct staff to address and provide information to all of the questions and comments regarding the proposed fee schedule for rescue services raised by Town Council members and the public at the January 26, 2009 meeting.

Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer who voted against the motion.

#### 5. Mansfield Senior Center Architectural Study

Director of Human Services Kevin Grunwald reported that both the Senior Center Association and staff do not want to see additional money spent on the existing building. Maintenance will patch the roof as necessary until a new one can be installed.

#### 6. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager reported the Community Quality of Life Committee met and discussed current zoning enforcement processes and the definition of a family as currently codified. The Committee requested the opportunity to review and propose changes to the amendments to Special Police Services Ordinance. The Town Manager suggested delaying the public hearing.

Mayor Paterson reported that the last meeting of the Community Campus Partnership discussed possible state or local actions to deal with alcohol use. Making TIPS, a training program for sellers and servers of alcohol, mandatory was suggested as a possible law or local ordinance.

#### 7. Community Water Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager reported the Four Corner Sewer Advisory Committee met with the Connecticut Water Company to discuss the possibility of bringing outside water to Mansfield. Mr. Nesbitt, Mayor Paterson and Town Manager Matt Hart met with Tom Callahan from the University to discuss University plans for providing future water supplies. Mr. Nesbitt provided an overview of UConn's plans. A summary of the discussion is attached.

Mr. Haddad requested a summary of the interbasin transfer permit process and a list of decision makers.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### 8. Improvements to Route 44 at Birch/Cedar Swamps Roads

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to schedule a public information session at 7:30 PM at the Town Council's next regular meeting on February 9, 2009 to review the proposed improvements to Route 44 at Birch/Cedar Swamp Roads.

#### 9. Amendments to Special Police Ordinance

As previously mentioned the Community Quality of Life Committee has requested an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendments to the Special Police Ordinance.

The Town Manager asked Council members to give thought to the formation of a Town Council Committee to review drafts of new initiatives prior to being presented to the entire Town Council.

Director of Emergency Management John Jackman and Sgt James Kodzis, Resident State Trooper, outlined the proposed changes to the ordinance noting the current ordinance is difficult to enforce. These changes would formalize the process for officers to give due notice to organizers of disruptive events and a chance to remedy the problems. If additional services are required, an ability to instigated fines is codified. An appeals process is included in the draft ordinance.

Council members discussed the wording of the proposed amendments and by consensus the issue was referred to the Community Quality of Life Committee.

#### 10. Interlocal Agreement Between the Town of Mansfield and the Town of Columbia for Financial Services

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective January 26, 2009, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed interlocal agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Town of Columbia for Financial Services for a term to run from February 2, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

Controller Cherie Trahan discussed the proposed short-term agreement for financial management services with the Town of Columbia with her office providing assistance. Ms. Trahan stated that the agreement is on a short-term basis to allow her to evaluate potential revenue opportunities.

Council members discussed the pros and cons of this type of interlocal agreement and agreed to support this short-term proposal.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 10a. Region 19 Referendum for Athletic Facilities Improvements

Mr. Nesbitt distributed a resolution for Council's consideration. After discussion regarding the proposal and the timing of the proposed resolution presented by Mr. Nesbitt, Mayor Paterson agreed to relay the concerns regarding the size and expense of the project expressed by some members of the Council to Superintendent Silva.

### VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ms. Koehn requested staff investigate the Town's legal responsibility to provide assisted hearing devices under the Americans with Disability Act.

Members requested a status report on the UConn compost facility.

Mr. Paulhus left at 10:30 p.m.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Leigh Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Committees, offered the following nominations:

Lena Barry, Ethics Board, Alternate member

Gregory Frantz, Transportation Advisory Committee

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- None

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 11. AKRF re: WINCOG Regional Economic Development Initiative Update
- 12. Chronicle, "Editorial: Power Lines OK in Imperfect World" – 01-20-09
- 13. Chronicle, "Editorial: We Offer These Threads, Needles" – 01-05-09
- 14. Chronicle, "Mansfield May Bill for Accident Rescues" – 01-14-09
- 15. Chronicle, "Permit Final Hurdle for New Downtown" – 01-09-09
- 16. CL&P re: Letter from Mayor Elizabeth Paterson Dated December 1, 2008
- 17. Eastern Highlands Health District re: Current Economic Environment
- 18. Greater Windham 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness
- 19. Hartford Courant, "In the Cold, Small Preserve is Ideal" – 01-18-09
- 20. Mansfield Self & RV Storage re: Assistance to Mansfield Neighbors – Ms. Koehn requested a thank you note be sent to Mansfield Self Storage LLC
- 21. Mansfield Today, "Fire Department Asks Council to OK Fees..." – 01-15-09
- 22. Mansfield Today, "Potter Land Deal Would Clear Up Unpaid Taxes" – 01-19-09
- 23. Mansfield Today, "Town Hopes for Better Bids on Mansfield..." – 01-10-09
- 24. PCSW re: Making Women Visible Day
- 25. PZC Application Referral: Sheila A. Clark
- 26. PZC re: December 2008 Draft Environmental Impact Study
- 27. PZC re: Proposed Telecommunication Tower in South West Mansfield
- 28. Save the Sound re: Save the Date
- 29. UConn Office of the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer re: UConn Compost Facility 1
- 30. Wall Street Journal, "Folks Are Flocking to the Library..." – 01-15-09
- 31. Windham Region Chamber of Commerce Health Council

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, applauded the efforts of Mr. Nesbitt in questioning the proposed athletic improvements at E.O. Smith High School and implored Council members to make a statement at their February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- At a future meeting Council members will discuss corporate advertising at the skate park.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Discussion of Sale of Real Estate

Present: Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Schaefer  
Also included: Town Manager Matthew Hart

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Duffy moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to adjourn the meeting

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk